

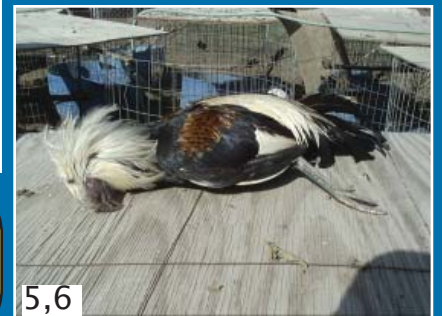
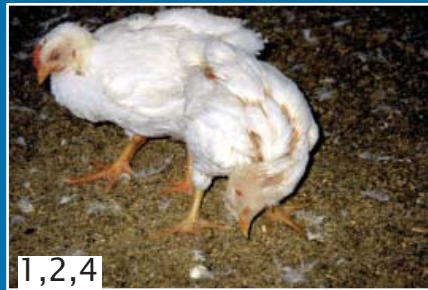
Signs of Disease in Poultry

Disease Recognition

Recognizing disease in your poultry is sometimes obvious. But, by the time the disease is obvious, it may be too late. So it is very important for you to know your birds "normal" or healthy behavior by observing them. The fact is, it's difficult to recognize when birds are sick, especially in the early phases of illness. Birds are experts at hiding their symptoms of disease. This is a defense mechanism to insure their survival in the wild. Therefore, they often do not appear ill until their disease state is advanced. An alert, trained owner or veterinarian can recognize the subtle symptoms of early disease.

How can I tell if my birds are sick?

Sick birds are inactive, dull and tend to separate themselves from other healthy birds in the flock. Some signs of disease are:



**To report sick birds call:
1-800-491-1899**

1 Respiratory : Coughing, sneezing, pasting of the nostrils, swollen sinuses, abnormal tearing, matting or crusting of the eyes, gasping for air, extension of head & neck on inspiration, ocular & nasal discharge.

2 Gastrointestinal : Persistent watery diarrhea, drinking large amounts of water, regurgitation of food or water, bloody or mucoid diarrhea.

3 Reproductive : Impaired hatchability of eggs, infertility, reduction in egg production, soft or misshapen eggs, early chick mortality.

4 Neurological : Twisting of the head and neck, falling to one side or the other, unable to rise, paralysis (complete, partial or transient).

5 Skin : Vesicles or pustules, sloughing of skin, swollen joints or foot pads, pale comb & wattles, bluish comb & wattles, bloody beaks.

6 General : Decrease in food & water consumption, listlessness, appears depressed, reluctance to move, ruffled feathers, sudden increase in mortality, chicks huddling near the heat source or excessive peeping.

To guard against the risk of a future avian disease outbreak, CDFA and USDA formed the Avian Health Group. The Group promotes disease recognition and prevention for pet bird owners, backyard bird owners, hobby bird owners and the commercial avian industry.



Learn how to prevent the spread of disease in your birds at: www.cdfa.ca.gov under the Avian Health Group tab. You can also learn other facts about disease prevention for birds at www.aphis.usda.gov under the "Biosecurity For the Birds" Program.